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I, JONNE YABSLEY, TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND SALES hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional specification in connection with Application No. PQ 1920 for a patent by PAUL JOHN O'KEEFFE as filed on 02 August 1999.

WITNESS my hand this
Twenty-first day of May 2003



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**Provisional Patent Application
for
a Sterile Dry Moisturising Towelette
for use by Operating Theatre Personnel**

Paul O'Keeffe, 29-7-99

Dry skin on hands and arms is a common problem for operating theatre personnel. This is due to frequent washing with surgical skin cleansers over prolonged times. The standard scrub-time for the first operation of the day is five minutes. Subsequent scrubs may be shorter but they are sufficient to remove bacteria from the skin. Unfortunately, the natural oils in the skin are also removed leaving the hands and arms with a dry feel.

This invention seeks to remedy the problem for operating theatre personnel of dry hands and arms by providing a means for replacing skin oils and greases prior to applying sterile gloves.

Sterile moisturising cream is not suitable for application to the hands and arms prior to putting on gloves because the skin surface would be slippery and gloves would move too much on the hands.

This invention comprises a sterile towelette impregnated with the oil and/or grease base of a moisturising cream. It is preferably contained in a peel-apart pack. The preferred moisturising cream base is wool alcohols but any moisturising cream base can be used. The water content is nil or much lower than that of a moisturising cream. The towelette is offered to the surgeon or nurse after hand drying. It is rubbed over the hands and forearms before applying a sterile gown and gloves.

This invention produces a moisturising effect on the skin because gloves are immediately applied. If gloves are not applied the moisturising effect would be inferior to that of a standard moisturising cream which contains more water. Use of the invention results in a moisturising cream base being applied to the skin which is then occluded by gloves and gown. Occlusion of the surface promotes absorption of the cream base into the skin.

Surgical skin cleansers often contain moisturising agents for the purpose of reducing the drying effect their use has on skin. They are not sufficiently effective as skin moisturisers. Prior to this invention there was no means of applying a non-slippery sterile skin moisturising agent to the hands and arms immediately before putting on sterile gloves.